

## Pray for Syria

Near East

Syria has become a place of fear and confusion. For the past several months, Syrian citizens have protested on the streets to remove political oppression. Protests continue as citizens demand more freedom; however, those who stand up for their rights are often beaten, imprisoned, tortured, killed or forced to flee their homes. When locals rise up, the electricity, diesel, kerosene, gas and water are cut. According to local believers and international reports, more than 5,000 people have died due to the current violence in Syria, and approximately 10,000 people have been imprisoned.

Syrians struggle to survive. Conditions have worsened in these winter months with freezing temperatures, as locals cannot heat their homes without electricity or fuel. Thousands of Syrians have fled to nearby countries. Yet, several of the Syrian borders have closed and many are displaced within the country or have fled to mountain villages.

There are currently no OM teams living in Syria. However, OM Near East's ministry of evangelism, church planting and discipleship has extended into Syria through short-term visits and mentoring opportunities. Please pray for the ongoing discipleship of house group leaders. Pray that people will have strength to face daily challenges and wisdom to listen to God during these difficult days.



## Sharing hope

Logos Hope @ Manila, Philippines

Tahan-Tahanan is a home for children with cancer and other non-communicable diseases. When they go to hospital in Manila for treatment, youngsters from the provinces of the Philippines who would not otherwise have anywhere to sleep can stay at the home with one family member.

A team from Logos Hope visited the home to connect with the kids through songs, games, ballooning, facepainting and drama. Michelle Arthur (Australia) explained the drama to the kids and parents. "I told them we don't have to pretend to be someone else, Jesus loves us as we are," she said. She then talked and prayed with a lady called Ella who had donated her kidney to her daughter Heidi. "When little children have cancer it's very difficult to see," added Michelle. "It was humbling for me."



## Meeting a Pakistani Father for the First Time

Hong Kong



In the past two months, my husband and I have been getting to know Masood's\* wife and kids by visiting them on a weekly basis. Masood only recently returned to Hong Kong from Mecca, and his father also came to Hong Kong for medical treatment. According to Masood's father, he had previously worked in Hong Kong for 26 years as a policeman!

In Pakistani culture, the separation of men and women is highly valued. Thus, strangers who are male are typically not welcomed into their homes. Ever since Masood's return, my husband's presence at his home became a sensitive issue. However, because it was Masood's father's birthday, my husband and I were hoping to visit them and to get to know Masood. Praise the Lord that Masood not only welcomed us into his home that day, he even candidly told my husband about his past and how he fervently seeks Allah and prays five times daily. My husband revealed that he is a Christian, in hope of showing Masood that we are Godly people. We hope to share more with him in the future.

Written by Kay\*, OM colleague

\* Names have been changed

## OM Monthly Prayer Meeting

Date: 30 Jan, 27 Feb, 26 Mar, 30 Apr (Monday)

Time: 7:30-9:00pm

Venue: 11/F, Tai Lee Mansion, 165-167 Pei Ho Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon, Hong Kong

### OUR PURPOSE

OM's role in the body of Christ is to motivate, develop and equip people for world evangelization, and to strengthen and help plant churches, especially among the unreached.

### How to support us?

Make your cheques payable to "Operation Mobilisation (HK) Ltd". Transfer your donations to our account 082-5-026461 at HSBC, please send us your bank receipts.

\*Donations of HKD 100 and over are tax deductible in Hong Kong.

1st Quarterly Report 2012

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# 1st Quarterly Report 2012



Dear brothers and sisters,

Blessings for the new year!

*The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."* (Gen 12:1-3)

Abram, in obedience to the call of the Lord, leaving his homeland with his family, embarked on his sojourn of faith, not knowing where he was going (Heb 11:8). With faith and a willingness to embrace changes, Abram, later named Abraham, left his comfort zone to a life long journey experiencing the grace and mercy of God, totally pleasing to God and became a model for generations of believers.

His life has been a source of comfort when I felt homesick and missed my friends when I first served the Lord as a missionary, reminding me I have to go and walk to wherever He leads for the sake of the Gospel. (Gen 13:17) I wondered, "In the next two years, I would get to learn the needs of Muslims, Hindus and Catholics. Is it only Jesus who can cater for their specific needs?"

For those two years in overseas service, I have fully felt the graciousness and faithfulness of the Lord. There is no salvation other than Christ. As every missionary could testify, it is only through 'leaving'(one's birthplace) that we could arrive at renewal. We could share a young man's story of growth and faith in this issue. Are you longing for such an experience? Why not take that step of faith into a short term mission?

In Him,



Cheuk-chung Lau  
Field Leader

OMHK Christmas Party in 2011



## Worship in a Box

*I was stuck in a box.*

*It was a pitch black container, where light penetrated through the small holes, yet it was so dim that nothing could be seen. Nearly 50 trainees filled the cramped area. The heavy breathing sprawled around me; the deficient oxygen was being consumed bit by bit. Before long, moisture stemmed from sweat occupied the whole area.*

**In the dark, a trainer told us an old story.**

"In Eritrea, a group of Christians were endlessly imprisoned in such a container for they were accused of believing in Jesus. At noon, it was so hot that temperature could rise to 45 Degree Celsius. At night, it was terribly chilly. Every day, they were given only a meal; they even needed to queue up at the holes to inhale some mouthfuls of fresh air, the most basic needs."

"The guard there imposed cruel punishment on them, forcing them to abandon their faith in Jesus and become Muslims. If they were willing to "repent", they could leave this living hell immediately and they could be set free."

A sister called Berhane once recalled the testimony during her imprisonment. There was one time that she was tortured. At that time, she felt like she was hearing the prayers from all over the world, and joy filled her heart. Therefore, she started to lead worship in their jailed container. Voice of Praise filled the desperate container. The guard couldn't help asking "who is singing?". "It's me," replied Helen. Another round of torture imposed on her.



Chiu Tso

When she returned to the container, she was half-dead. The guard sent some medicine to her in order not to let any Christians die for their faith. Finally, she was cured. Then she began leading worship again. The guard came again and asked who did it. The brothers and sisters realized that they couldn't afford to lose Helen and live without worship, therefore one of the brothers said, "It is me who leads the worship." Each time different people told the guard they led the worship. The worship inside the container never ended."

Last week's training theme is Mission Mobilisation Training(MMT). Missionaries from Creative Access Nations shared with us the bitter experiences of the Christians over there. Missionaries dressed in military uniform and introduced North Korea to us. In fact, the father of North Korea's first president Kim Il-sung was a pastor. Regrettably, once Kim Il Sung ruled the country, there was an unprecedented level of persecution against Christians. He claimed himself as "The Everlasting Father". Before his death, he also claimed that he would govern North Korea "in spirit". The people of North Korea had to assemble every Sunday to worship the first president of their country.

In North Korea, criminal charges can be dropped by means of bribery, except "admit Jesus Christ". Committing the crime of having faith in Christ means three generations of a family will suffer. Besides family relationships being ruined, doubts may be clouded between brothers. Even children are used by their teachers as spies in their families to check if their parents hide any bibles at home. These innocent "Spy Kids" are so poor that once their parents are imprisoned, they become orphans strolling along the streets. Will you still keep your faith amid such kind of persecution?

At the end of MMT, the trainer played a video about the kidnap experience of an American Christian couple. In the



video, the wife Gracie Burnham recalled the times when the rescue team had a gun battle with the terrorists during her escape in a forest. Every day they were exhausted to the brink of death. Gracie once asked God for granting her a can of Coca-cola. That night, she was then given a brand new can of Coca-cola from the kidnappers. Gracie experienced non-stop miracles in the forest, making her realise God does listen to prayers. The only prayer left unanswered was the hope of being released. Grace started to realize that it was God's plan to put them into such a circumstance.

Later, unfortunately, Grace's husband was shot dead in a gun battle one day before their release. "God only let me come back, I don't know His plan, but I am sure he will guide me forever," said Grace.

*While we are praying for our studies, families, work or different aspects of our lives, remember to pray for the brothers and sisters who are being persecuted in other parts of the world, as "And if there is pain in one part of the body, all the parts will be feeling it; or if one part is honoured, all the parts will be glad." (Corinthians 12:16)*

**Chiu Tso joined Missions Discipleship Scheme organised by OM South Africa from Sep 2011 to Jan 2012.**